(a) whether Government are considering to opt for global auction of third generation technology popularly known as 3G spectrum;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to hold any discussion with telecom operators on 2G and 3G licences; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The guidelines for allotment and use of 3G spectrum are to be formulated taking into account all relevant aspects.

Customer growth rate of BSNL

1854. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last four months of this year *i.e.* between March-July, 2007, BSNL could extend its customer base only by 1 million whereas other private players have been able to increase their base 4 or 5 times than BSNL which lead to slipping of BSNL to 4th Place from the 2nd;

(b) if so, the reasons for not able to attract the customers by BSNL;

(c) the percentage of customer growth rate of BSNL during the last three years *vis-a-vis* private players; quarter-wise; and

(d) the number of circles in which BSNL is in operation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, during the four month period (March-June, 2007) growth of customer base of BSNL and private operators was as follows:

Item	BSNL	Private Operators
Addition of wireline and wireless subscribers	2.9 million	18.91 million

BSNL was at second position in terms of total number of wireless subscribers and retained first position in terms of wire line subscriber in the country as on 30.6.07.

(b) Reasons for lower increase in customer base of BSNL are as follows:

(i) Capacity constraints in GSM mobile equipment.

(ii) Poor supply of Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWT) by the vendor.

(iii) Surrender/disconnection of landline telephones by customers.

(c) As per the data reported by BSNL, MTNL and other private wireless operators, the quarterly comparison between the growth rate of BSNL and private wireless operators are given in Statement-I and Wireline Operators are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) BSNL is providing telephone services in 26 telecom circles in India. Details of state-wise coverage with name of BSNL circle is given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

The quarterly comparison between the growth rate of BSNL and private wireless operators

	All India BSNL Subscribers	Private Operators Subscribers Base	BSNL % Growth	Private Operators % Growth
Jun-04	6171736	31061261		
Sep-04	7964284	34454237	29.04%	10.92%
Dec-04	8895269	38342256	11.69%	11.28%
Mar-05	9899425	41237633	11.29%	7.55%
Jun-05	10690924	45383596	8.00%	10.05%
Sep-05	12381877	51238136	15.82%	12.90%
Dec-05	14830828	59464787	19.78%	16.06%
Mar-06	17651263	70440617	19.02%	18.46%
Jun-06	21015389	88822334	19.06%	26.10%
Sep-06	23695841	103411900	12.75%	16.43%
Dec-06	26600283	120415403	12.26%	16.44%
Mar-07	30984921	131184070	16.48%	8.94%
Jun-07	32051096	149701189	3.44%	14.12%

Note: WLL (F) is included in the subscribers base from June 2006.

Statement-II

The quarterly comparison between the growth rate of BSNL and wireline wireless operators

Quarter Ending	All India BSNL subscribers	Private Operators Subscribers Base	BSNL % Growth	Private Operators % Growth
1	2	3	4	5
June'04	36032326	2938106		
Sept'04	36147323	3597006	0.32	22.43
Dec'04	36494392	4302592	0.96	19.62
Mar'05	37035525	5097835	1.48	18.48
June'05	36801362	6095939	-0.63	19.58
Sept'05	36800344	7155077	0.00	17.37

1	2	3	4	5
Dec'05	36761140	8218065	-0.11	14.86
Mar'06	37507915	8798210	2.03	7.06
June'06	34948326	2531657	-6.82	-71.23
Sept'06	33965922	2795369	-2.81	10.42
Dec'06	33577097	3028735	-1.14	8.35
Mar'07	33738604	3289662	0.48	8.62
Jun'07	32912359	3506516	-2.45	6.59

Note: WLL(F) is included in the Subscriber base upto March'06 only.

Statement-III

Details of State-wise coverage with name of BSNL circle

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Covered by BSNL Circle named
1	2	3
1.	Union Territory of A&N	Andaman and Nicobar
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Assam	Assam
4.	Bihar	Bihar
5.	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh
6.	Gujarat	Gujarat
7.	Haryana	Haryana
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
10.	Jharkhand	Jharkhand
11.	Karnataka	Karnataka
12.	Kerala	Kerala
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
14 a)	Maharashtra (excluding Mumbai)	Maharashtra
14 b)	Mumbai	–
15.	Meghalaya	N.E.-I
16.	Mizoram	N.E.-I
17.	Tripura	N.E.-I
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	N.E.-II
19.	Nagaland	N.E.-II
20.	Manipur	N.E.-II
21.	Orissa	Orissa
22.	Punjab	Punjab
23.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
24.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu
25.	Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal

1	2	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	U.P. (E) & U.P. (W)
27.	West Bengal	West Bengal
28.	West Bengal	Kolkata District
29.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai District
30.	Delhi	–

Mission mode project under National Governance Plan

1855. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala has represented during June 2007 for approval of the 20 mission mode project submitted by Kerala under the National Governance Plan;

(b) if so, whether the detailed project report submitted for capacity building and the project report for the mission mode had been approved by the competent authority;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. DIT (Department of Information Technology) has received seventeen (17) Mission Mode projects, out of these 11 pertain to State MMPs as approved under NeGP and 6 State specific MMPs have been submitted by the Kerala Government.

(b) to (d) The Capacity Building DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) have been received from various States/UTs including Kerala, and a comprehensive Capacity Building Scheme covering all States/UTs has been formulated for Human Resource and Training initiatives under NeGP. This scheme is currently being processed for approval of the Competent Authority. The proposal of State Government of Kerala cannot be considered at this stage since the Scheme has not been approved by the Competent Authority.

New telephone exchanges in NER

1856. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges set up in the North Eastern Region particularly in Sikkim during the last three years, district-wise/year-wise;

(b) the details of telephone exchanges to be installed in the region during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, district-wise; and

(c) if so, the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, number of new telephone exchanges set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the North